

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/DCI

WH/22WH 746347

Date: March 197  
No. 72

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

Khmer Communist elements cut Route 1 yesterday 15 miles southeast of Phnom Penh. Local government units are trying to reopen the highway. In the past the insurgents have been unable to keep the road closed for any appreciable time. Government clearing operations between Route 1 and the Bassac River made little progress on March 6. Other Cambodian Army sweep operations south of Phnom Penh south of Route 201 also made scant headway. The local government commander claims that Communist bunkers tunneled under the road are impossible to destroy with artillery and difficult to observe from the air. Twenty miles west of Phnom Penh, fighting, some heavy, is continuing along a section of Route 4--which remains under Communist control. Elsewhere, government positions in and near the southwestern city of Kampot continue to be subjected to minor harassment. Government reinforcements from Phnom Penh are due to begin clearing operations around Kampot

today. Another Mekong resupply convoy is now en route to Phnom Penh from South Vietnam.